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Socialism a Peril to the Ch

By J. Wesley Hill, D. D., Pastor Metropolitan M. E.

[Dr. Hill's Article is printed in eight-point type, the Editor's Reply is interspersed in ten-point type. If you wish to read Dr. Hill's article as a whole, read only the smaller type.]

Socialistic Tendencies.

Theorizing in the discussion of Socialism, its relation to religion cannot be overlooked. Nor dare we be deceived by its loud professions of indifference to religion, or its attempt to evade responsibility of that which it holds by relegating religion to the individual and declaring it to be a matter of "private opinion."

As a rule, Socialist platforms indicate no antagonism to religion.

The reason for this apparent toleration is not, however, stated in these platforms: For those, non-Socialists of an inquiring mind are obliged to seek elsewhere. In reading elsewhere it is soon discovered that the entire Socialistic propaganda is religionless!

This conclusion is emphasized by the most incontrovertible facts of the Socialistic literature.

"A Resume of Socialism and Positive Science," a book written by Enrico Ferri, an international figure in Socialism, clearly shows the tendency of Socialism in relation to the religious question.

On page 31 appears the following: "It is because Socialistic theory and forecast that religious beliefs must waste away. It is for that reason that Socialism does not find the necessity of fighting specifically the many religious beliefs which are destined to disappear."

Edward B. Aveling, one of the great scholastic leaders of Europe, the very best authority on Atheism, declares, "Marx was an avowed Atheist, and [illegible] to have the proletariat organize for the [illegible] of religion. Engels, the friend and colaborer of Marx, is a master of Atheistic literature and student of scientific Socialism, should read the whole of the introduction written by Frederick Engels in 1892 to my translation of his 'Socialism, Scientific and Utopian.'"

August Bebel, although an avowed atheist, recognizing the necessity of different tactics than those employed by many of his colleagues, declared that while he favored "The disbelievers of religion," he favored their progress toward this ideal by the capture of the public power."

Again, in "Women: Past, Present and Future," page 346, Bebel says, "Socialism must eventually be the deliverance of religion. But this will always come by itself, without any violent attack."

"It is our duty," said William Liebknecht, "to serve on the right to God with all our soul, our heart and our strength, his name who died on the cross [illegible] in the spread of mankind."

And thus Socialism pervades the universe, and declares it to be simply [illegible] to the thinking of all worlds and declares that it is blasphemy that it is [illegible] a hereafter, offering nothing [illegible] only work, as one class is "working [illegible] die."

It is too bad for Dr. Hill's case [illegible] he is forced to admit (what no [illegible] Socialist already) that the Socialist [illegible] in various countries are [illegible] opposed to religion, and [illegible] champions who stand for full religious liberty. But he [illegible] by saying "as a rule." Will Dr. Hill please tell us of one Socialist platform in any nation of the world that declares against religion?

One would naturally expect that the [illegible] of a writer [illegible] Dr. Hill's [illegible]

The Christian [illegible] attention to the [illegible] Socialism [illegible] Socialism is all [illegible] Socialism [illegible] Dr. Hill's [illegible] do the same.

But [illegible] bigots and hypocrites [illegible] Socialist [illegible] these [illegible] longest and [illegible] Christ [illegible] ing people to [illegible] citizen [illegible] the outward [illegible]

Atheism thrives [illegible] unfaithful church. [illegible] called Christians [illegible] scorn of hell [illegible] have lost [illegible] cast out and [illegible] Jesus, terribly and [illegible] Wherever the [illegible]

After all, Dr. Hill's [illegible] from Socialist [illegible] and social [illegible] about Socialism.

While [illegible]

And [illegible]

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...

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[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Last night closed one of the most remarkable meetings that has ever taken place in this city. For two weeks a series of three lectures on Christian Socialism by Comrade [illegible] Ward, secretary of the Christian Socialist Fellowship, I say it was wonderful because of the intense interest manifested in spite of the opposition that has always existed here against Socialism and its teachings. Several months ago we arranged for this meeting and we did it with many misgivings and much debating as to whether, as we hardly dared hope we could make it a success, but he comrades were equal to the occasion, but he comrades were equal to the occasion. We had a meeting that will be long remembered, not only by comrades that are laboring for the cause, but by the hundreds of sinners that are fighting us on every inch of the ground.

The first night he took up the subject of the rich man and Lazarus and gave us a touching picture of capital and greed against humanity and suffering.

The second night he took up Socialism from a Bible standpoint, showing clearly that true Christianity is SOCIALISM, and SOCIALISM is only the following of the teachings of Jesus Christ and that the doctrines of Socialism are as exhaustless as the Bible itself.

But the third night was the one that crowned the fabric. The church was filled to overflowing, the seats were filled long before the hour of beginning the service, while he began to speak there were hardly standing room in the house and members could not get inside at all, and they listened as Moses has never listened before to an address of two hours on a comparison between the sufferings of the capitalistic system of today and the blessings of the SOCIALIST system that we are offering to the people. The vast assembly was held spellbound, absolutely still, every ear open to the awful description of conditions that none can dispute and there to the remedy to be applied to this cancer that is eating out the vitals of a people that was intended to be free and independent.

As he closed you could almost hear the breathing of the audience as they leaned forward to catch the burning words of eloquence, and tears glistened in many eyes as they listened to the awful portrayal of certain existing conditions.

All this is certainly encouraging to a few of us here that have undergone hardships and have fought for years for this cause and at times have been discouraged and almost ready to give up the fight as hopeless, but now it seems that we see a light breaking. Such pictures as this held up to a downtrodden suffering people whose privileges are going one by one, and who are being ground deeper and deeper year by year into poverty and want, certainly cannot go unheeded. Long live such grand and noble comrades to proclaim the Gospel to a people that is looking for deliverance from capitalistic greed, is our prayer.

W. H. Friedhart.

RESULTS OF ELECTIONS

Summary Issued from the Weekly Bulletin of the Socialist Party

Slow coming returns on the Socialist vote indicate about 75 per cent increase over the Presidential vote of 1908.

One congressman, Fitch, district of Minnesota, plurality of 1,600 over his opponent. Others known: California, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, with chances in Ohio, Illinois, Washington and Wyoming.

Comrade Carl D. Thompson, Utah, Congressman, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Socialist, 1910, was elected, 1910 plurality.

Comrade Victor L. Berger, Congressman, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Socialist, 1910, was elected, 1910 plurality.

[redacted]

3. This statement that "the Socialists" are responsible for the booklet, "A Socialist Well-Wisher," because a few enthusiasts calling themselves Socialists put the book out, is not likely to impose upon any one. That the Republican party, to which Dr. Hill belongs (because it has paid him for his services at high prices), stands for such men as Governor Lowndes, Robert Ingersoll, a prominent Republican, stood for abolition, or that the Republican party stands for free love because certain Republicans do. It is safe to say that the Socialists in general favor more religion by private ministers or anybody else, and less by priests, ministers or anybody else, than people of any other party.

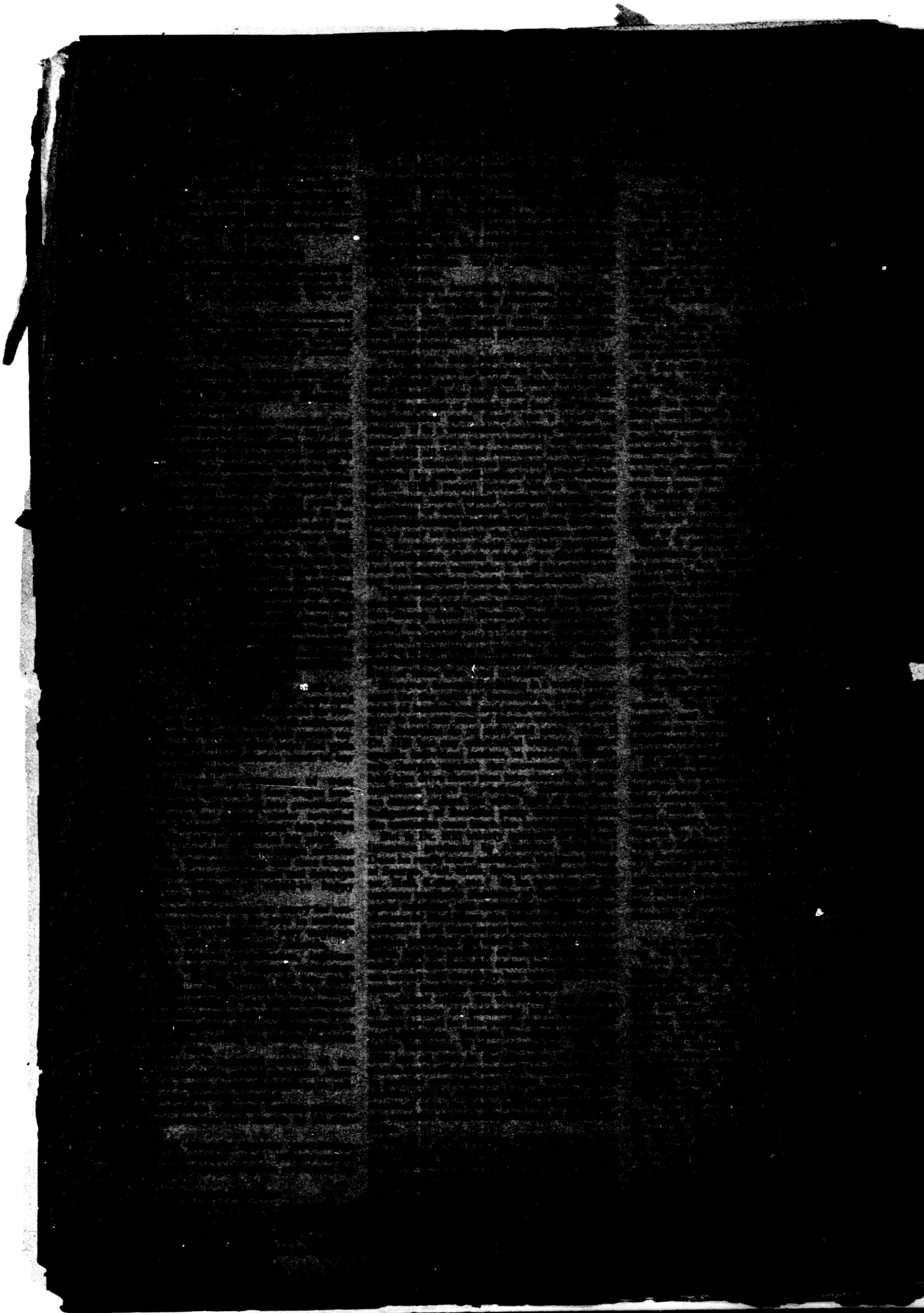
4. The tragedy of Herron's life, so far from making him a leader of the American Socialists, drove him to Italy, and he has ceased to exercise any appreciable influence on the Socialist movement of America, long before he ceased to be called by Socialists to speak in their meetings. The American movement [redacted] in this country like Dr. Hill would have people think.

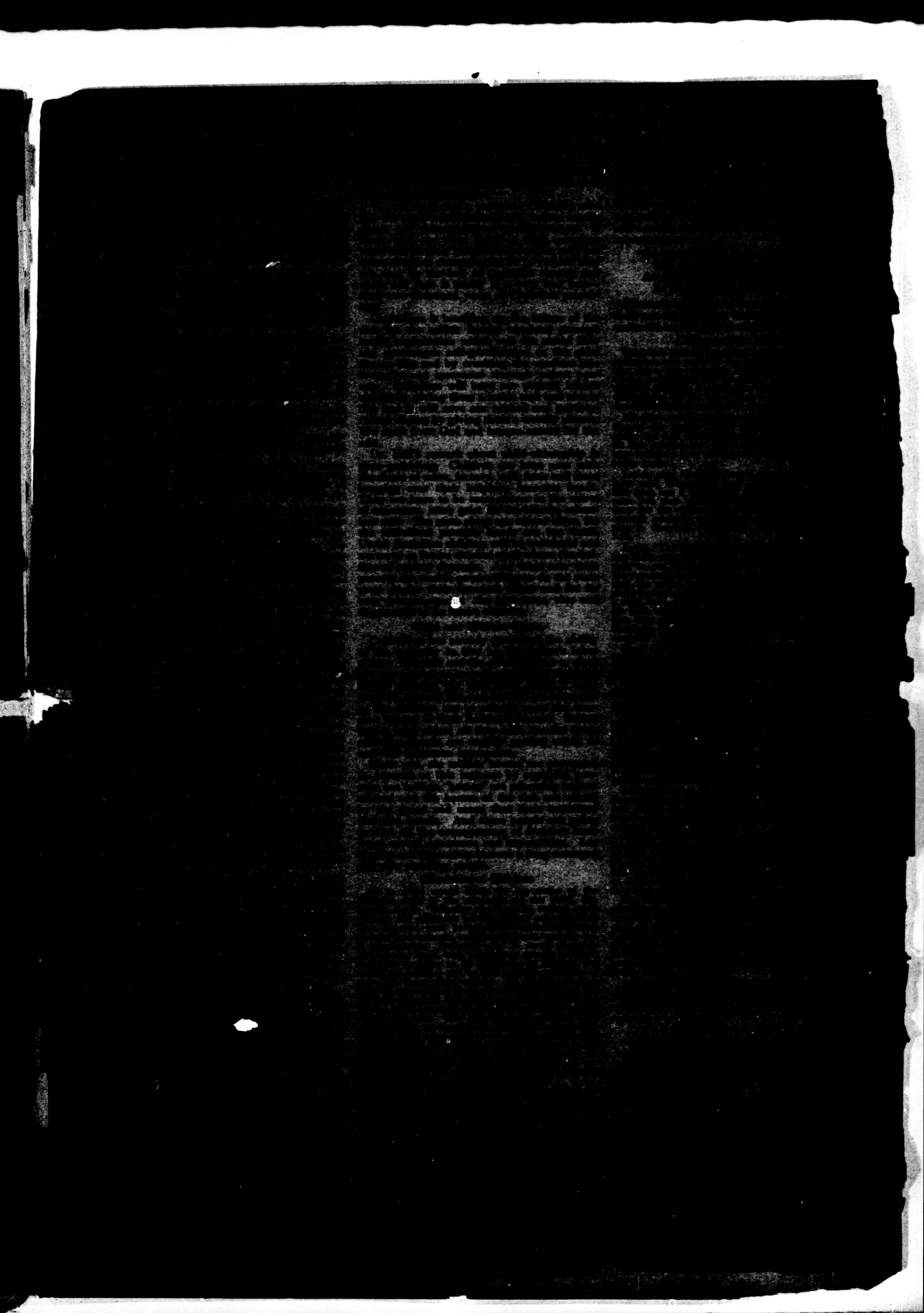
Debs's Book

One of the results of the failure of Socialism to [redacted] especially by the [redacted] Convention of the party in September, 1900, and the consequent loss of [redacted] is the publication of a book by Eugene V. Debs, the Socialist candidate for President in 1900 and 1904. I quote from the introduction written by Stanley B. Lesh, an editor of a New York Socialist paper:

"Socialism in today a necessary social [redacted] and here in the public schools, [redacted] will have to return to slavery and to the social conditions existing in ancient times. It must cost all the very ruling of the [redacted] of the nation right [redacted] for all the rest of the [redacted] of private property and with it the [redacted] and establishment of [redacted]

The [redacted] entitled to the [redacted] Church of women's rights by [redacted] [redacted] Church of a [redacted] [redacted] Church [redacted] [redacted] Church [redacted] [redacted] Church





[illegible] Wesley Hill, Exposes and Warns [illegible] of Capitalism

Battle Between Members and Members

[illegible] by Rev. J. C. Kline, of Spring City, Pa., Unmasking Hill and Giving His Career Record

[illegible] ABATEMENT AND THE M[illegible] SURELY PERMEATING THE [illegible] MIND OF THE PEOPLE. [illegible]

[illegible] "WHAT THE SOCIALIST DESIRES IS THAT THE CORPORATION OF [illegible] SHOULD CONTROL ALL PRODUCTION. MY LOVED COMRADES, THIS IS THE [illegible] WAY; IT IS THE HONEST WAY; IT ELIMINATES THE MOTIVES FOR A SELFISH LIFE; IT ENACTS INTO OUR EVERY-DAY LIVING THE ETHICS OF CHRIST'S GOSPEL. NOTHING ELSE WILL DO IT; NOTHING ELSE CAN BRING THE GLAD DAY OF UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD.

"OH, THAT I WERE YOUNG AGAIN AND IT WOULD HAVE MY LIFE. IT IS GOD'S WAY OUT OF THE WILDERNESS AND INTO THE PROMISED LAND. IT IS THE VERY MARROW OF CHRIST'S GOSPEL. IT IS CHRISTIANITY APPLIED."

Who Is J. Wesley Hill?

It happens that I know all about this Anti-Socialist gospel crank named the "Rev." J. Wesley Hill in particular. I am in possession of an [illegible] long-form charges and specifications against the moral character of the man J. Wesley Hill. And these charges and specifications embody many notable bits of Hill's Health for the mind and soul of the Associated Anti-Socialist Society, and prove him to be dead to a decent and proper conception for the [illegible] claim.

Of course my [illegible] consider Hill personally of very small importance, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

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